

REMARKS

Claims 47-75 are pending in the application. Claims 60, 62, and 63 are withdrawn in response to the election/restriction requirement. Claim 75 is new and is supported by the specification at least in Figure 9(b) and paragraph [0065] of the specification. Claims 54-67 and 69-74 are amended herein to correct minor grammatical errors and errors in claim dependencies and/or antecedent basis. Claim 48 is amended for clarity and is supported in the specification at least in paragraph [0081]. Claim 49 is amended to recite InP, as supported in the specification at least in paragraph [0083]. No new matter has been added.

Election/Restriction Requirement

The Examiner asserted that the present application contains claims to four patentably distinct species and required Applicants under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species A or B and C or D, for a total of two species. The Examiner stated that claim 59 is generic.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on grounds set forth below. In the event that the restriction requirement is maintained, Applicants provisionally elect species A, a curved input sidewall and a curved output sidewall having different radii of curvature, and species D, a curved input sidewall and a curved output sidewall having radii of curvature of different signs. Claims 61, 64 and 75 are readable on the elected species.

The Examiner has characterized the relationship between the species as distinct for the groups cited. Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the following grounds. The selection of the radii of curvature and signs of the curved input and output sidewalls may provide a means of varying the size and shape of the beam passing through the claimed apparatus. Accordingly, particular selections of radii of curvature and signs are alternative embodiments, as opposed to distinct inventions. Furthermore, the species of the groups cited are closely related and

amenable to being searched and examined jointly. The search of species A, B, C, and D would not be a burden on the Examiner.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentable and in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned agent for Applicants via telephone if such a discussion will expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Mindy N. Rittner, Ph.D.
Registration No. 57,803
Agent for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, Illinois 60610
(312) 321-4200